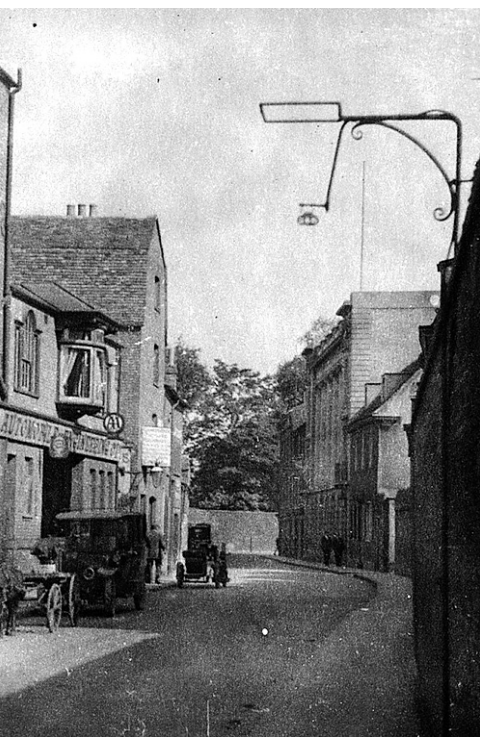
Voluntary Aid Detachments in Shelford

Voluntary Aid Detachments in Cottenham

Wounded soldiers at St Chad's



There was no fancy nursing or bandaging included in the duties which consisted, for the most part, of scrubbing and washing up.

There was also the bathing of the patients as a special treat and, occasionally, the carrying of a patient from the operating theatre to the wards as a giddy pinnacle of excitement.

Exalted social position was no bar to membership but it carried no exemption from the most menial duties. Every member did his bit once a week and a member of the university "washing up", or a prominent local dentist laying and serving breakfast were by no means uncommon sites.

Then there was air raid duty; few in Cambridge knew how elaborate were the preparations made for their succour and treatment if an air raid had chanced to develop.

On many occasions, little bands of men were posted throughout the town with first aid appliances and a motor ambulance service was ready. Nor were the surroundings in these aid posts always of the cheeriest.

On one occasion, the night had to be spent sitting around an empty coffin in the workshop of our local undertaker.

Thus, first and last aid work is equally available. All through the war new recruits were being trained. Several old members of the detachment made the supreme sacrifice.

What the future holds it is difficult to say. But we are carrying on and if we are wanted. In peace or in war, we shall be ready.

■ Satisfying inspector of explosives – 1907

CAMBRIDGE Automobile Company applied for a licence to store 1,000 gallons of petroleum and 200lbs of carbide of calcium on their premises in Hobson Street.

The petrol would be stored in an underground chamber, brick-built and lined with concrete.

The inspector of explosives is satisfied so the council will recommend approval.

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